

MINUTES OF THE LAFAYETTE COMMON COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 9, 1998
SPECIAL SESSION

The Common Council of the City of Lafayette, Indiana met in special session on Wednesday, September 9, 1998, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, 20 North 6th Street, Lafayette, Indiana.

President Alting called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given to the flag of our Country.

The following members were:

Present: Alting, Boehning, Meyer, Probasco, Campbell, Downie, Rhoda, Smith, Fisher

Absent: None

The Clerk read Ordinance 98-53 (An Ordinance Appropriating Money for the Purpose of Defraying the Expenses of Several Departments of the City Government of the City of Lafayette, Indiana for the Fiscal Year Beginning January 1, 1999 and Ending December 31, 1999, Including the Outstanding Claims and Obligations and Fixing the Time When the Same Shall Take Effect) by title only for first reading. Councilman Boehning moved for passage, Councilman Downie seconded. Mayor Heath explained that the budget is higher than it will end up and stated that the goal is to reduce the budget in order to maintain the current tax rate. Mayor Heath stated that each department head has submitted their budgets based on the services that they would like to provide. Mayor Heath stated that in the weeks to come the budget would be reviewed and decreased if necessary in order to keep the current tax rate. Mayor Heath highlighted several items that are in the budget including \$350,000 in traffic light upgrades, 3 new firefighters, software upgrades to prepare for the year 2000, park department reorganization, and the sanitation and street department reorganization. Councilman Meyer asked if proposed cuts would be brought about before the second reading of the budget and Mayor Heath stated that they would. Councilman Probasco stated that he compared the 1998 budget in the sanitation department and found that it was down due to reorganization. Councilman Meyer inquired about the software line items that are spread out in department budgets and asked if this is one time cost. Bill Yazbec stated that there would be annual maintenance charges to maintain the system. Mayor Heath stated that there would be continued annual expenses due to continued computerization. Councilman Probasco stated that in fire department there is a big increase in general supplies. Mr. Yazbec stated that capital items have been moved to general supplies in many departments. Councilman Probasco inquired about \$24,000 for temporary salary in the fire department and was informed that the line is for a mechanic to work on specialized fire equipment. Councilman Rhoda stated that he appreciates the work on traffic signals and intersections, and inquired about a line item for the Board of Public Works and Safety

and Mr. Yazbec stated that line item covers any mid-year expenses. Councilman Smith asked if there was any way to help fund a new Vinton Pool in the 1999 budget. Mr. Yazbec stated that the pools are park expenses and would probably require a bond issue. Vicki Mayes, Park Superintendent, stated that there is no money in the 1999 budget because they are waiting on the citywide aquatic plan to be completed and any recommendations would probably necessitate a bond issue. Councilman Fisher indicated the desire to keep tax rate down and asked how much needs to be cut. Mr. Yazbec stated that the administration is looking at cuts to the current 1998 budget then he will need to review how much needs to be cut out of the 1999 proposal. Ms. Mayes addressed several questions on the park department budget. Councilman Meyer asked about anticipated improvements for Edgelea Pool. Ms. Mayes stated that there is money for basic repairs but no long-term expenses are included and stated that the aquatic study will help determine how to proceed. Councilman Probasco complimented the traffic department for all of their hard work throughout the city. Mayor Heath stated that the aquatic study is being conducted and when the study is completed a financial plan will be put together just as was done for the Columbian Park aquatic center. Councilman Probasco asked the police chief about personnel needs. Mayor Heath stated that 14 new police officers have been added in the last 2 years, and due to 5% salary increases, additional employees will not be feasible. Councilman Boehning moved to amend the budget in facilities department to decrease account #221 (gas and oil) by \$2,900 and add \$2,900 to a new line #373 (vehicle leases), Councilman Probasco seconded. The amendment passed by unanimous voice vote. Councilman Meyer asked if there would be a working session on this budget and Mayor Heath suggested that the council president assign 2 council members to each department. President Alting stated that he would make the assignments by the September 14, 1998 regular meeting.

Councilman Probasco moved to recess for a public hearing on Ordinance 98-53, Councilman Meyer seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

There was no public comment on Ordinance 98-53.

Councilman Rhoda moved to reconvene the special session, Councilman Fisher seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Councilman Fisher moved to adjourn, Councilman Downie seconded. Passed by unanimous Voice Vote. Time being 6:36 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Lisa Decker, City Clerk.